

## **Proposed Action and Request for Input**

### **Road Maintenance and Motorized Mixed Use for Eight National Forest Road Segments in Inyo County**

Dear Interested Party,

The Inyo National Forest Supervisor is considering providing easements or special use permits to Inyo County for the maintenance and use of eight road segments on the Inyo National Forest. No new construction would be authorized, and no change to road maintenance is proposed.

The easements or permits would meet two goals. First, they would formalize Inyo County's role in road maintenance along the segments: road maintenance allows the public to enjoy the Inyo National Forest and allows Forest Service employees to safely access the Forest. Second, the easements or permits would allow the County to request permission from the California Highway Patrol to allow motorized mixed use on the road segments, so they could be analyzed by the County to be incorporated into the Inyo County Adventure Trails of the Eastern Sierra Pilot Program (Assembly Bill 628). The eight segments are currently open only to vehicles that are "street-legal," that is, licensed to operate on public roads and highways. If the eight road segments are designated for motorized mixed-use in a future, County-led process, off-highway vehicles would be able to use the segments to reach other roads and trails where OHV use is already allowed.

The eight road segments, located near the towns of Bishop, Big Pine, and Independence, are shown on the attached map (Figures 1 and 2) and listed in Table 1. Four of the road segments may meet the intent and requirements of the National Forest Road and Trail Act (FRTA) for an easement. The other four segments may be suitable for a special-use permit issued under the Federal Land Planning and Management Act (FLPMA) to formalize maintenance activities and allow Inyo County to determine the type of vehicles to be allowed on the roads. Easements are considered long-term, and the decision whether to issue easements for any or all of the four roads will be made by the Regional Forester. The Forest Supervisor will make the decision whether to issue special-use permits for the other four roads. The permits would be issued for no more than 5 years, during which time the impacts of potential OHV use would be observed and considered before any permanent or long-term decision is made.

Potential environmental impacts of both easements and special-use permits for the roads will be considered, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Forest Supervisor expects that this project can be completed under a categorical exclusion (CE). Appropriate and legally required environmental studies and consultations will be completed before any decision is made.

**Table 1. Forest Service roads under consideration for easement or permit to Inyo County.**

<b>Road Name</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Surface</b>	<b>Miles</b>
Death Valley	FRTA Easement	Paved	13
County Road	FRTA Easement	Paved	0.1
Onion Valley	FRTA Easement	Paved	0.6
Foothill Road	FRTA Easement	Dirt	3.8
Coyote Valley	Special Use Permit	Dirt	0.5
McMurray Meadows	Special Use Permit	Dirt	1.9
Division Creek	Special Use Permit	Dirt	2.6
Mazourka Canyon	Special Use Permit	Dirt	4.7

### **Public Input and Public Meeting**

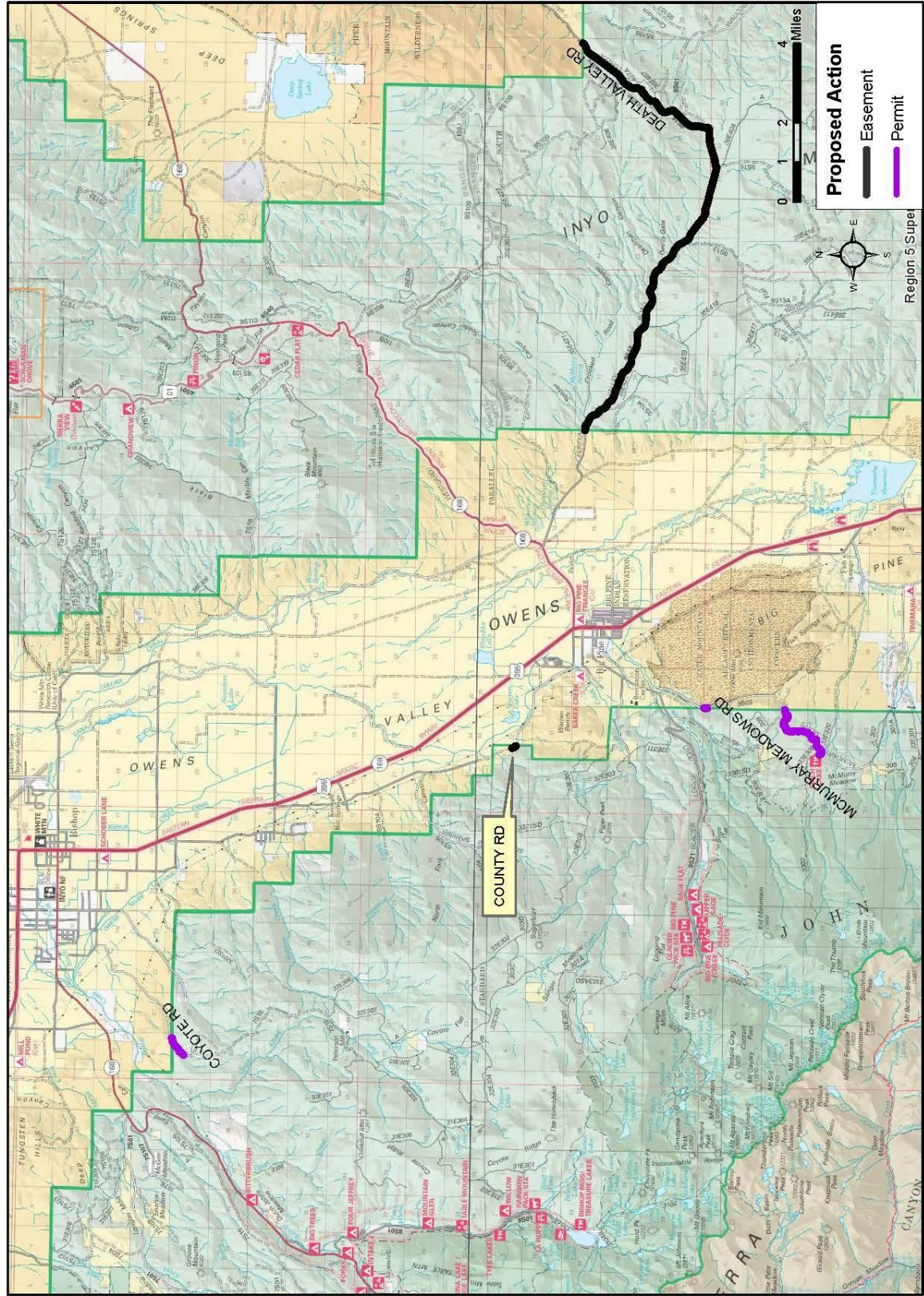
The Forest welcomes any input or suggestions the public may have to improve the project, and any concerns with the proposal. You may submit written comments via email to Erin Noesser at [erin.noesser@usda.gov](mailto:erin.noesser@usda.gov), or via mail to Tammy Randall-Parker, Inyo National Forest, c/o Erin Noesser, 351 Pacu Ln., Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514. While you can provide input at any time, your input would be most helpful by February 18, 2020.

We also plan to have a public meeting to present the proposed project and answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Inyo National Forest Supervisor's Office at 351 Pacu Ln., Bishop, California on January 22, from 5:30-7:30 pm.

If you would like further information about the project, how to provide input, or the public meeting, you can contact Erin Noesser, Forest Environmental Coordinator, at (760)873-2449 or [erin.noesser@usda.gov](mailto:erin.noesser@usda.gov).

# Proposed Action Showing Type of Road Agreement to be Considered - North End

Coyote, County, Death Valley, and McMurray Meadow Roads





## Proposed Action Showing Type of Road Agreement to be Considered SOUTH END

Division Creek, Mazourka, Onion Valley, and Foothill Roads

